contra FLOW

September 1994
FREE
56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St,
London SE17, U.K.
fax: 071 326 0353.
e - mail: woodl@uk . a c. lse
(until Oct)

CAR EATING VIRUS REACHES LONDON

Scientists have been amazed at how fast the car-eating virus, **CRITICAL MASS** has spread so far around the world. What started as an informal bike ride home of 50 people in San Francisco has magically mushroomed out to now reach London. All over the planet Critical Mass is kicking in and growing now that folks realise how much fun the whole thing is. London has witnessed 6 outbursts of the furious mass cycle ride. On 26th August, the plague of cyclists reclaimed the streets of London's West End again bringing traffic to a standstill,

creating a just little free space for one hour for a look at how the streets of London could possibly be.

NO LIFE
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
MON. TO FRI.
BRAIN CLEANING

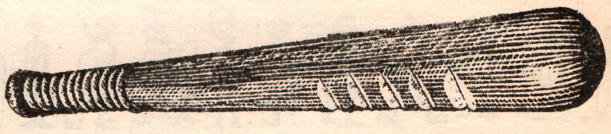
BUNCH

Ultimately it's just a bunch of cyclists riding around together from point A to point B, as a sort of *ORGANISED COINCIDENCE*. The Mass is a space free from people imposing their ideas and actions on one another and creates a temporary autonomous zone where participants take an active role in building a livable future, in however small way we can. Everyone on the Mass has or can invent the reasons for being on the ride. Some people want more bike lanes, some people want a car-free Zone One in London, other people just want to create a little space free from the consumer-society's idea of fun and mass-marketed "entertainment". Some people want to confront a bankrupt system and see the Mass as an anti-authoritarian, mini-weapon in that struggle. • Why is there so little free space in the cities where people can relax and interact free from the incessant and overwhelming buying and selling of our lives ? • Why are people compelled to organise their lives around work and cars? • What would an alternative future look like? Whatever their bike grudges, Critical Mass must be doing something right, hitting a raw nerve and growing into a large scale, decentralised grassroots movement.

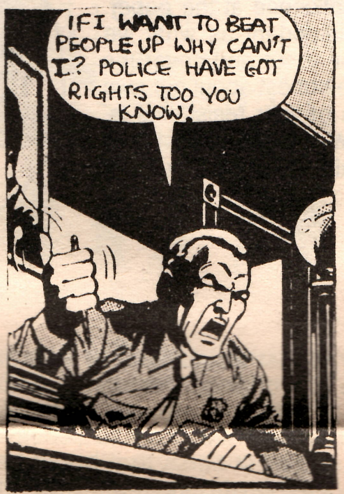
When all we are really doing is riding from here to there on bikes, it can be considered amazing that in attempting such a simple task, so many provocative and interesting questions come up. For a moment each month, the dream of a future where no-one is in charge becomes possible.

• Last Friday of every month. Meet at N.F.T Piazza, South Bank, WATERLOO at 5.45pm for a ride into the impossible.

NEWS FROM OCCUPIED HACKNEY



Hackney cops have been enjoying the summer, particularly the TSG driving round like caged animals waiting for a chance to get stuck in. They started in the spring, laying into a crowd outside a pub playing punk noise, and then driving round in search of any more crusties they could find on the streets. They turned up to cause trouble at the end of the Hackney Homeless Festival which till then had been particularly laid-back, and put their boot in on an estate, against the mainly black residents who were trying to deal with a gang of white vandals who regularly damaged cars and other property there. In July they got stuck in to a demo outside (and inside) Hackney Town Hall against the Criminal Justice Bill and other attacks on housing.


IF I WANT TO BEAT PEOPLE UP WHY CAN'T I? POLICE HAVE GOT RIGHTS TOO YOU KNOW!

But now Hackney Council have stepped up their own form of proactive, provocative policing - taking out injunctions against those nicked on the demo to stop them going to Park Crescent (which was evicted the next morning) or any local housing office, and trying further to ban them from any council property without their written permission! This part did not get through the court, and the injunct ions they got were dropped when the Crescent was safely trashed and boarded.
All those arrested were threatened with being sued for damage to the front door that had been kicked in, though only one was charged with this by the cops, two have had their jobs threatened - one a Hackney teacher and one working for a council funded organisation.
Criticism and resistance are not allowed in the Hackney police statelet, and the director of house-trashing has been given free access to personal files to help him slag off anyone who attacks council housing policy in the local rag.

Meanwhile, Hackney cops will be greatly cheered by the fact that only two of the 92 whose corruption, frame-ups and drug dealing were revealed by Hackney Community Defence Association are facing charges - a sign for them to carry on as normal.

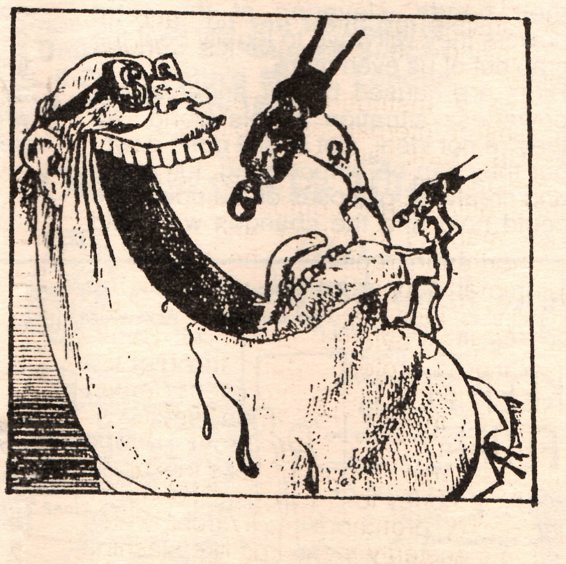
Hackney Community Defence Association can be contacted on 071-249-0193

...and Oxford

On August 1st two new squats in Oxford (one an ex-nurses home and one an empty cinema which people wanted to use for a week of events) were raided by riot police and illegally evicted.The cops later attacked people gathered outside the police station to support those nicked. On the the Saturday a demo of about 200 marched through the city, then congregated in the city centre against the orders of the police. The cops obviously wanted to have a go again, trying to seal off the area like we were some kind of unexploded bomb, but the shoppers and tourists were too interested to allow the cops to go for it, and after a while they just vanished, allowing the demonstrators to march back to the start without them.

UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY

Campaigners marked the 50th birthday of the World Bank/the International Monetary Fund by building a mock dam in front of the ODA, the UK govt dept responsible for 'overseas aid', and by occupying the World Bank's London office.
These 2 institutions are important organs of international capitalism. The World Bank supports 'third world development' - ie it arranges contracts for multinational companies, creates new markets to exploit, and props up authoritarian regimes. The projects it promotes/supports usually involve the seizing of land - up to 1600 people a day are being evicted in World Bank-sponsored projects round the globe - destruction of the environment, forced changes in land use, often leading to starvation. All for the profit of rich businessmen. The IMF backs this up by lending money to 'developing' countries, enforcing profitable repayment which means austerity measures like slashing of housing, healthcare, food, wages for the working class of the country in question. As the recent Pergau Dam affair showed , such 'aid' is often linked to arms deals, so governments can rob people of land and shoot them up if they complain.
The campaign to shut these robbing rich bastards down (& not just them we hope) saw their fiftieth birthday in, with the chaining shut of the doors of the Overseas Development Agency in London, and the building of a sandbag dam. Later 20 people occupied the World Bank's London office, and held an unbirthday party. A mock board meeting voted to close the Bank down . All 20 people were nicked but not charged. Later a protest at the office saw African groups identify the IMF/World Bank as 'the new colonial masters'.
More protests are planned. The World Bank holds its conference in Madrid at the end of September. An alternative conference will be held, with campaigners and workers from round the world, and there will be a demo through Madrid on Oct 2.
If you want to go, contact :
EarthArc, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4.



Protests/demos/actions here, and more info on the World Bank, contact The Ecologist, Bath Rd, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1DU. 0258 473476. See calendar, 14th Sept.

INSIDE:

• COPPERS and PRISONERS NEWS • WORLD BANK NASTIES • HUMAN BEINGS DETAINED • ITALIAN STUFF plus CONTACTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

have-a-go, 'flow intro

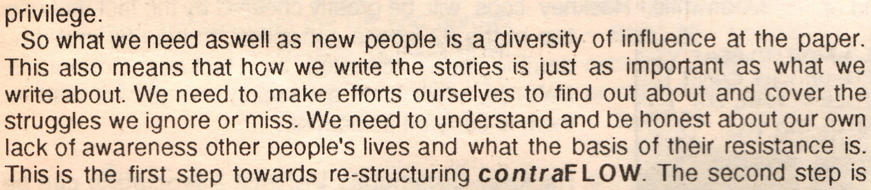
• STRUGGLE

At present, everybody involved in the production of ***contra*FLOW** brings to the paper their own personally developed political outlook based on their history of involvement in many differing social struggles over the last few years. We do not share a particular ideology but we do find that we have enough basic common ideas and motivations to be able to work as a group and produce a regular newspaper that features news and analysis of the everpresent worldwide struggle for a world controlled by human beings, against a world based on hierarchical domination and money.

• BUT WHOSE STRUGGLE ?

As a collective of predominently single, white men, we are wholly unrepresentitive of the struggles we try to report (or more importantly the struggles we fail to report). This is not a revelation to us. We have discussed and tried to alter the groups composition and our sources for news a few times in the last two years but we always fall back into the routine way that's developed for making each new ***contra*FLOW**.

Now we feel that we really have to work through all the excuses and change the way ***contra*FLOW** works as a group and as a publication.



• UNAPPEALING

We are not looking to wave a magic wand so that all of our problems disappear. Part of the problem we face is one of involvement in the group and paper itself. What makes a person spend their time struggling to put out a free newspaper when they could be doing something else? We cannot talk about the production of ***contra*FLOW** by a beautifully diverse number of individuals as if just by appealing to people to join in will automatically get them hammering at the door. We know that many people are involved in their own lives and struggles and networks and for them getting involved in another project, another weekly meeting is an impossiblilty. Being white, single men, we also know that that gives us the relative privilege of space and time to work towards destroying that privilege.

So what we need aswell as new people is a diversity of influence at the paper. This also means that how we write the stories is just as important as what we write about. We need to make efforts ourselves to find out about and cover the struggles we ignore or miss. We need to understand and be honest about our own lack of awareness other people's lives and what the basis of their resistance is. This is the first step towards re-structuring ***contra*FLOW**. The second step is then that people feel there is a reason to be involved with the group and the paper.

• STRUGGLING

We get material for ***contra*FLOW** through the **E**uropean **C**ounter **N**etwork (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem), through our e-mail address (**woodl@uk.ac.lse**), through our fax (**071-326-0353**) and through magazines and our own involvement in events and struggles.

We appeal for news from your particular thing esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. We are not journalists and some of us are pretty shy, so you can't expect us to write about everything that's happening. ***contra*FLOW** has limited space but don't be put off from sending longer stuff. Material that doesn't get into the paper, may be put into **E.C.N** and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful.

• DISTRIBUTION

You can help us distribute ***contra*FLOW** by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 etc from us and putting them about in schools, colleges, workplaces, gigs, demos etc. Send some stamps and we'll post them to you. Or you can pick them up from

*• **56a Infoshop**, 56 Crampton St, Elephant and Castle, London SE17 on Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm*

*• **121 Books**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24 from Wed 4-8pm, Fri, Sat from 1-5pm.*

Or you can receive the lastest issue direct from us via the Post and MI5 if you send us a stamped enveloped. One SAE equals one issue, 2 for 2 etc..

• CASH

Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarily and rely on donations. We accept cheques (payable to A.HODSON). aswell as ripped off office equipment and hampers of food and champagne. Thanks in advance...ho.ho.ho!

The contraFLOW Collective

• VISITING HOURS

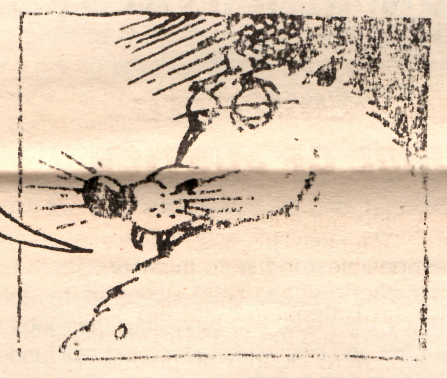
come and help ***contra*FLOW** live

Get involved, ask questions, offer advice

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER at 2pm

121 Centre, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton,
LONDON SE24

Nearest tube: Brixton plus loads of buses



fluff OFF !

Would you believe it, pacifism is making a comeback? At the July 24th anti-criminal justice bill march, leaflets were handed out, credited to the Freedom Network, which advised us:

" The criminal justice bill attacks our right to peaceful protest. It is vital that we defend this, and our other rights, in a peaceful way.In the past large events have often been turned into 'riots' by a combination of heavy handed policing and violent agitators in the crowd...The law and order lobby and most of the media would jump at any chance to portray us as violent hooligans...This is our chance, instead, to show them that we can come together peacefully in large numbers to have a good time and to defend our lifestyles with dignity and humour..." The leaflet suggested we " keep it fluffy" (!) and " If one or two individuals become aggressive, forming a circle of non-violent people around the can oftenbe effective...Join hands with others who also do not want to get involved. If the violence continues, you could ALL SIT DOWN...This will isolate those being violent...as a last resort you can form a 'DOORMAT" by all lying on the ground." The author does realise though that " this may not be a good tactic in the face of attack by mounted police...However, the police will have been informed that people who want to keep out of trouble may adopt these tactics" and of course " The police are all individuals with families emotions and problems of their own, try to be friendly and polite" . Whats going on ? Didn't we learn anything from the eighties. from the miners, travellers, printers, anti-poll tax struggles, that the press is against us anyway, that the cops will wade in no matter how we march, when they want/are ordered to?It is a sad sign of these times of disillusion that the green liberal eco-nice movement, with this pacifist ideology, is growing.

THEIR VIOLENCE AND OURS

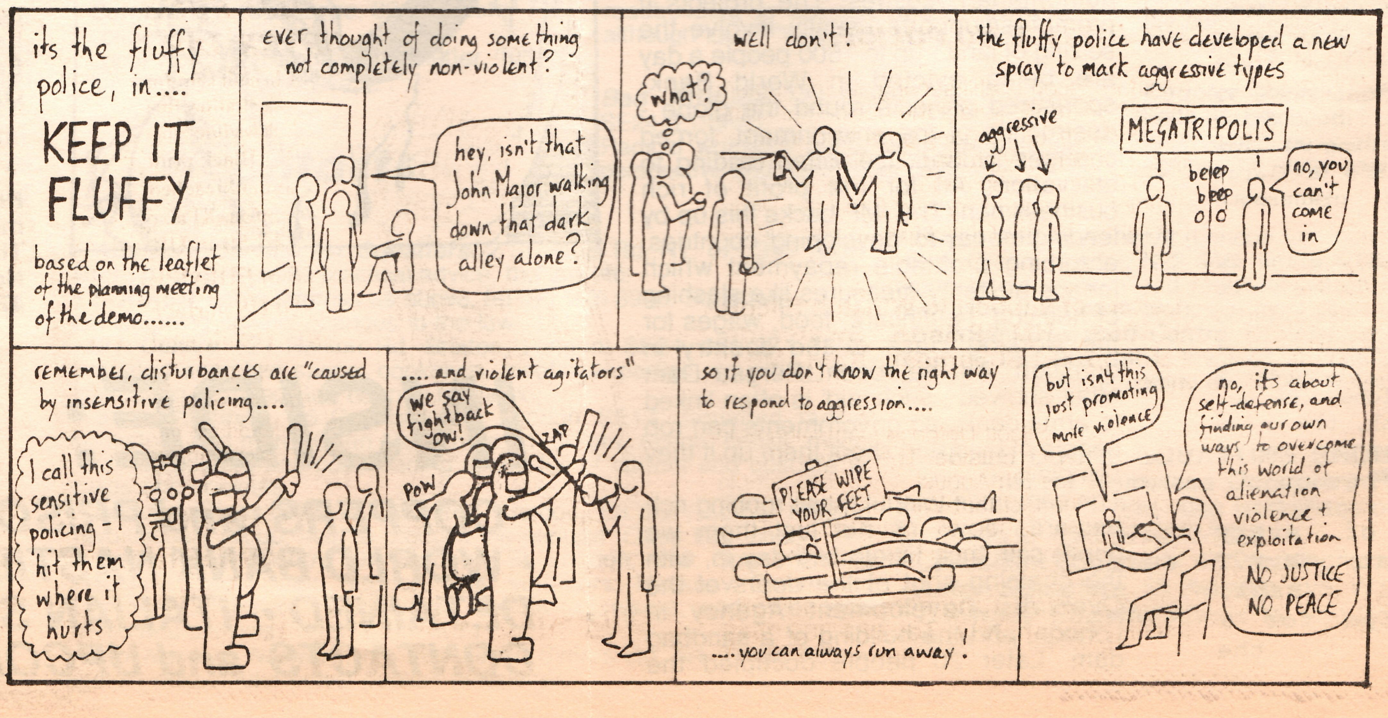
Non-violence as a tactic is somtimes vital, especially on demos in the West End. Starting aggro in Whitehall on the demo, in the most filmed area in the world, could have been suicidal. Violence should be on our terms, not on the cops. But blanket non-violence as an ideology is just as suicidal. If we really think we can change the world, make it a better place, live without exploitation and repression, we have to recognise that the capitalist class that benefit and enforce this profit system, and their hangers on, aren't going to give in at the sight of a peaceful sit down. They are going to have to be forcefully disposessed of their power and wealth - just as they have dispossessed us, and keep us in line every day, with violence. But every 'right' we have, the rights the Freedom Network trumpet, has been won from them by the force or the threat of force, from the working class. Even non-violent protest is always backed by the unspoken threat of our violence. Our force is the only thing they fear. We are daft if we give up that power. The cops know this, which is why they batter us at every convenient opportunity - to keep us afraid to fight back. Far from opposing much of the criminal justice bill, as they say, most cops are rubbing their hands, slavering at the extra powers they will have to legally beat the crap out of us even more.

Riots are caused by our anger at our powerless situation in this world. No they"re not ideal, alot of shit goes down, but they can be empowering, full of joy and creativity, glimpses of the power we could hold and the changes we could make. The Freedom Network wants us to stay non-violent - because they too, children of the middle class, jostling for a place in the system, they too are afraid of our class power. They didn't even mention police violence in the leaflet.

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

Before the demo there was talk (luckily not implemeted) of stewards carrying spray cans to spray paint anyone 'behaving violently', so they could be easy targets for the cops. In fact stewards did go round ripping masks off the faces of people who'd decided they didn't want to be identified. This shows what side they are on - and it's not ours. Be warned.

Contrafluff.


its the fluffy police, in....
KEEP IT FLUFFY
based on the leaflet of the planning meeting of the demo......
ever thought of doing something not completely non-violent?
hey, isn't that John Major walking down that dark alley alone?
well don't!
what?
the fluffy police have developed a new spray to mark aggressive types
aggressive
MEGATRIPOLIS
beep beep
no, you can't come in
remember, disturbances are "caused by insensitive policing....
I call this sensitive policing - I hit them where it hurts
.... and violent agitators"
we say fightback OW!
ZAP
POW
so if you don't know the right way to respond to aggression....
PLEASE WIPE YOUR FEET
.... you can always run away!
but isn't this just promoting more violence
no, its about self-defense, and finding our own ways to overcome this world of alienation violence + exploitation
NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

Just how fucked up can we get?

Anti social crime within our class is nothing new - from domestic violence to pub brawls - it all helps to keep our side disorganised and fighting each other. But the desire to keep life fluffy and non violent casts a new light on it - how does keeping it fluffy work when it's not the police getting stuck into you but people from our community - and what are the effects of fighting back? What led to these points being put for me was a fight that happened in a squatted cinema in north London during a rave this summer.

What happened was that a posse of local lads had come to the rave wanting to DJ.This was OK for an hour or so, but when people tried to stop them, to change the music, fighting [with the bar and flouro lightbulbs as the weapons] broke out, the equipment was wrecked, a couple of ravers were hospitalised, the police arrived and cleared everyone out, and the place was shut down. The state won on almost all points - from the cops looking good, to further divisions within the working class in North London, and the venue being lost. What's up?

Also disturbing was the fact that, even though both sides of the ruck were not all one "race", it appeared in lots of ways to have been a white vs.black conflict. The response to the recent murder of a white lad in Camden only underlines the possibilities for the fash and the mass media to play up the so called race war. But we are fooling ourselves if it's not recognised that there is some tension - and the attitude that 'we're all anti fascists here' doesn't make much difference. The squatting scene is a ghetto, often seen as outsiders [This is doubly so when many of the squatters are white and 'alternative', in working class black communities.] and often as the crowbars of yuppification, providing some of the colour that then makes the area 'attractive'.

In lots of ways the whole shambles is just a sign of how fucked up our side is after 15 years of defeats, dole and drugs. And how a masculinity based on physical power continues to fuck up our lives, divide us and give 'the state' theopportunity to intervene.

In all this mess , 'keeping it fluffy' is pretty useless. Defending our squatted spaces is vital: although usually in squat centres it's white punks on special brew/the cops who attack people and trash the space, or alternative capitalists who take over... But full scale escalation of the fight only cemented the divisions within our class. And the similarities with any other 'saturday night out on the piss, and out for a ruck', are quite scary.

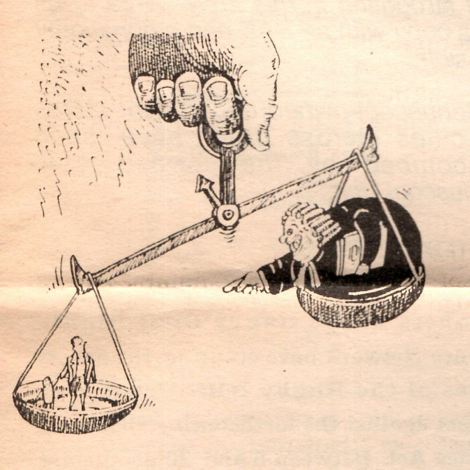
However, the rave appeared wide open for taking over. We need to be organised so that anyone out for a ruck gets the message that they'd meet some opposition. Better organisation and awareness are needed, but we can't defend "our" space by excluding others, by fighting other parts of the community for derelict buildings, for space for all the different ways we want to try to enjoy ourselves. The Criminal Justice Bill and other attacks leave less space for all of us, for all our communities. Unfortunately there's no revolutionary solution here, just problems that need to be identified and one big fuck up after another .

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

Prisoners Justice Day is commemorated every August 10th, as an international day of protest to remember people who have died in prison, whether from the routine brutality of prison life, murdered by screws or by suicide. The annual commemoration started in Canada in Millhaven Secure Unit in 1975, when prisoners went on hunger strike in protest at the death of Eddie Nalon, who slashed his wrists in a cell and pressed a panic button that had been disconnected.

Since then prisoners and their supporters in Canada and recently internationally have made August 10th a day of work and hunger strikes, actions and demos. The PJD Committee in Ontario, Canada, produce a radio program which is broadcast to prisoners. An important part of Prisoners Justice Day is building solidarity between prisoners and links to the outside, to break down the isolation of imprisonment and attempts by the prison/justice system to divide and rule us.

Prisoners Justice Day has seen demos in the UK since 1992. In August of 92, the Anarchist Black Cross picketed Brixton Prison in London. August 10th 1993 saw the ABC hold successful demos at Pentonville Prison in London, Winson Green in Brimingham, and Armley in Leeds. This year London ABC decided to concentrate on solidarity with women prisoners. Women feel the repression of the justice system in many ways more severely than men. Like men, most women inside are working class: over 80% are their for 'crimes' of poverty - shoplifting, cheque fraud, small time theft - in other words for trying to survive. Women are more likely than men to be sent down for a first offence, as the role of women under capitalism is not supposed to include unfeminine' criminal acts. This is ironic as he burden of bringing up and feeding kids often without money or support is shoved onto women: a situation which is getting worse. A fifth of women in Holloway are serving long sentences for smuggling drugs nto the UK - poor african and latin american women who are forced by poverty and pressure into being couriers: you won't the ich and powerful drug bosses doing time. The worst crime for a woman seems to be to ight back against a violent or abusive partner: for example **Emma Humphries** is in Holloway doing life for the self-defence killing her boyfriend, who raped and beat her epeatedly,.



Write to Emma: HMP Holloway,

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY 94

On August 10th, 30 ABC activists and supporters picketed Holloway, handing out eaflets and using a megaphone to expose women's lot under the justice system.

Birmingham ABC also held a demo of 20 people at Winson Green, remembering the murder of Barry Prosser by screws there, ncluding shouting out the name of one of the bastards responsible, now in a very senior post there. Later they were interviewed by ocal radio.

The ABC is hoping that next year we can organise and extend Prisoners Justice Day o other groups and make it a more effective well publicised event. If you are interested contact London ABC.

SUPPORTING PRISONERS

The above info on prisoners was put ogether by London Anarchist Black Cross, which is a small prisoners support group. We write to prisoners, publicise cases and prison struggles and resistance, hold demos and produce anti-prison/anti-capitalist proaganda, ncluding our bulletin, Taking Liberties, a prisoners list, and a wide range of leaflets, posters, as well as T-shirts and badges.

•Contact London, ABC, c/o 121 Railton Road, London SE24 0LR. Tel 071 274 6655. FAX 071 326 0353.

JOHN BOWDEN RECAPTURED

John Bowden, who escaped from prison custody in December 1992 while serving a life sentence for murder, was arrested in Scotland on Thursday 23rd June.and is now being held in segregation in Perth Prison. While inside, John(who is a marxist)was a constant organiser, activist and campaigner for prisoners rights. He was involved in attempts by prisoners to improve their conditions collectively, including the March 1992 work strike at Whitemoor Prison, as well as a series of debates on reform with prisoners and outside visitors in Long Lartin Prison between 1989 and 1991. He also wrote on prison struggles for anarchist and communist publications. As happens to all prison activists or anyone who questions, opposes or resists the system while inside, John was targeted as a "dangerous subversive" and came in for the usual treatment - regular moves from jail to jail, brutality and beatings from screws, such as the one he recieved in Winson Green in February 1989 (for which he was awarded £3000 damages - ironically withheld as he was by then on the run). John knew he would never be released unless the authorities considered him broken: he would carry on fighting till he was 'subdued or murdered'. As a result he decided to escape. It seems inevitable that John will get redoubled harassment from screws and the prison authorities. He needs letters and cards of solidarity to show that he is not an isolated easy target but a prisoner with contact to outside who has friends who will not forget him. He has stood by other prisoners and fought for a better life - we must not abandon him.

Write to John Bowden, 1273/94, HMP Perth, 3 Edinburgh Road, Perth, Scotland.

THE PERVERTED COURSE OF JUSTICE

Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin and Detective Inspector Maxwell Dingle, responsible for the framing up of Winston Silcott, Engin Raghip and Mark Braithwaite (the Tottenham 3) for the death of PC Blakelock during the 1985 Broadwater Farm uprising, were cleared of 'perverting the course of justice' on 26th July at the Old Bailey. Despite the quashing of the Three's convictions, and the evidence that the 2 cops fabricated incriminating interviews with Winston, the justice system once again moved to protect its own. This follows on from the refusal to prosceute any of the notorious West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad (who fitted up 100s of people in the 70s and 80s), the judge dismissing charges against the cops who tortured false confessions out of the Guildford 4....On the same day as their acquittal even, it was announced only 2 Stoke Newington cops would face charges - out of 46 investigated by the force and 91 implicated in frame-ups, racism and crackdealing by Hackney Community Defence Campaign.

Even when they have to prosecute cops to save face, the justice mafia rarely allow convictions. Could this be due to the vital role the filth play in protecting the property system of the rich and keeping us down? Framing up the innocent, lining their pockets and exercising their love of violence is part of the job, getting caught is the only crime.

NO JUSTICE NO POLICE

Winston Silcott is still serving life for another alleged murder - in fact the accidental killing in self defence of a gang boss who attacked him. The publicity around the Blakelock case led to this trial being a farce. He recently won a judicial review to try and force the Home Secretary to refer his case to the Appeal Court.

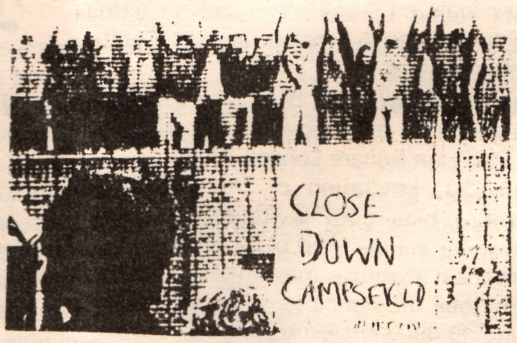
•Letters of support to Winston Silcott, B74053, HM Prison Swaleside, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4DZ.

The Winston Silcott Defence Campaign held a noisy demo outside Tottenham Police Station on the 5th August. Over 100 people protested the fact that Winston is still inside while Melvin is free to frame again. They need your support, get in touch:

•WSDC, c/o 79 Tangmere, Broadwater Farm, London, N17. Tel. 081 365 0448.

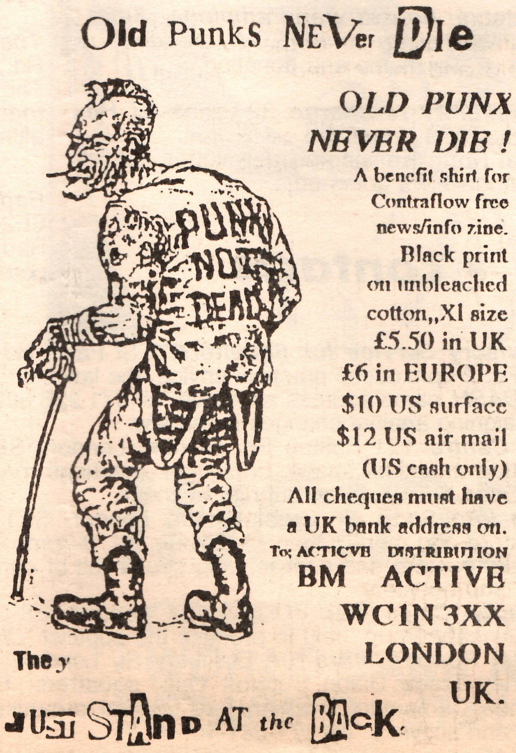
STOP THE DETENTIONS : we' ll live where we want !

The campaign is growing to stop the government imprisoning refugees, while it decides whether to deport them back to the war, repression and poverty they fled from. Demos are held at Campsfield Detention Centre, Kidlington, Near Oxford, on the last Saturday of every month, and a march is planned from Oxford to London for November to hand in a petition (?) demanding its closure. Campsfield Campaigners had a meeting with Graham Allen, the Labour Party's Immigration spokesman, but he wouldn't promise to close Campsfield if they got elected - unsurprising given Labour's history of introducing immigration laws when in power. The hunger strikes by detainees at Campsfield and elsewhere seem to have forced the govt to back down on demanding £1000s in bail from detainees to get out. But behind this concession the state is stepping up its anti-refugee moves. 700 refugees are being detained every month, with up to 200 being deported monthly. In June, the home Office began converting prison wings so they could be used to hold detainees, which allows them to get round UN rules on not holding refugees in prisons. One such wing opened at Rochester Prison, in Kent, in August, which can hold up to 100 detainees. This wing has its own segregation unit, and seems to be designed specially for detainees who have been labelled 'troublemakers' . Anyone interested in local action/ campaigning against the Rochester prison /detention wing contact CAIAD (see address below). There is also a meeting planned on the 27 Sept aimed at closing down Haslar Detention Centre, near Portsmouth. It's hoped campaigns will start wherever detainees are being held in centres or in prisons. Detainees contuinue to resist though: a total of 13 escaped from Harmondsworth Detention Centre, near Heathrow Airport, recently. Step up the fight.



Campaign Against Campsfield, c/o 111 Magdalen rd, Oxford, OX4. 0865 724452.

•Campaign Against the Immigration Act Detentions, c/o Migrant Support Unit, 6-20 St John's Mews, London, WC1N 2XN. 071 916 1646.



Old Punks NeVer Die

OLD PUNX
NEVER DIE !
A benefit shirt for
Contraflow free
news/info zine.
Black print
on unbleached
cotton,,Xl size
£5.50 in UK
£6 in EUROPE
$10 US surface
$12 US air mail
(US cash only)
All cheques must have
a UK bank address on.
To; ACTICVE DISTRIBUTION
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UK.

They
JUST STAnD AT the BAcK.

ZAPATISTAS UPDATE:

There's plenty going on still in Chiapas and the rest of Mexico, but news is hard to come by. A large scale meeting of delegates from popular organisations around Mexico called by the Zapatistas was held in early August after negotitaions for a peace plan with the Government were overwhelmingly rejected.

On 4th June in the town of Altamarino in Chiapas, 3 young Tzeltel women returning from selling farm produce in the local market were detained, interrogated and taken to a barracks and raped by 30 soldiers. After being accused of being Zapatistas and under threat of death they were physically forced to have sexual relations with all the soldiers of the platoon.

This new aggression by the Mexican army, alongside other incidents, and the general climate of oppression in the area makes necessary the presence of the International Red Cross, as demanded by the region's inhabitants, not only to prevent further agression but to guarantee the receipt of medical and humanitarain aid. Since the start of the uprising in Chaipas, the Mexican government has tried to accuse foreigners of being the brains behind the insurrection. Since the ceasefire of January 12th, the Army and Interior Ministry have started a systematic campaign to rid Chiapas of foriegners, espcially of international humanitarian volunteers.

On a brighter note, on June 14th hundreds of peasants blockaded state offices across the state of Oaxaca in solidarity with the Zapatistas, and demanding the restructuring of high interest loans, and the provision of much needed money for roads and electricity.

blitz !

On the night of 21st August, Blitz, the squatted community centre in Oslo, Norway, was bombed, presumably by fascists. The nightguard of the house were alerted by two gunshots, an attempt to get people out from the house and the bomb exploded causing much material damage. The perpetrators of the dastardly act had failed to throw the device into the Blitz yard and it had bounced off of barbed wire to land on the other side of the wall. Windows in nearby buildings were also shattered. Blitz reports that the bomb was certainly powerful enough to have killed anyone nearby.

Within four days, the damage was repaired and a demo on the 24th August, held to support Blitz, attracted over 2000 people including friends from Sweden and Denmark (unlike support demos in London which are made up of 2 violent anarchists, 2 non-violent hippies and 2 lunch-outs. Bitchy Ed.)

Blitz has been active for twelve years opposing fascists in a number of high-level confrontations. We wish them well and send our solidarity to them through the pages of **contraFLOW**

Contact: BLITZ, Pilestredet 30c, 0164 Oslo, Norway.

contra FLOW

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"soddin' calendar"

in SEPTEMBER

- **Sat 10** Blockade of Porton Down biological and chemical warfare plant, Wiltshire. Main Gate, A30, 1pm. Tel 0722 327146 or 0935 21595.
- **Sat 10**. Public meeting: Organising textile workers. Speakers from TGWU textile branch, Hackney, Leicester Home workers campaign, and the Brealey Jute workers Campaign. 4-7pm, The Daymer, Howard Rd, London, N16.
- **Mon 12**. McLibel Trial restarts. Picket the High Court, The Strand, London, WC1, 9.30 - 11.30am.
- **Tues 13**. Justice for Women meeting for women who want to get involved with the campaign to free Emma Humphries, jailed for killing her violent boyfriend. 6.30 - 8.30pm, London Womens Centre, 4 Wild Court, Holborn, WC2.
- **Wed 14**. Vigil/sleepout against the World Bank projects evicting 2 million people worldwide. 4.30pm - 10.30 next morning opposite the ODA, 94 Victoria St, SW1. Tel 0258 473476.
- **Wed 14**. Anti Nuclear Network picket of a big international nuclear power conference, (top nuke bosses from the UK and abroad will be there.) From 8am, outside Hotel International, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1. Hyde Park Corner tube.

- **Sat 17**. Demo against proposed deportation of Helen Aladesanwe, in Manchester. Tel. N. Manchester Law Centre, 061 205 9031.
- **Sat 17**. I year Anniversary of anti-M11 campaigning and occupation of houses, in Leytonstone, E. London. Action planned. Tel 081 558 2638 for info.
- **Sat 17**. Sponsored bike ride for the Colin Roach Centre, London - Brighton. Tel 071 249 8086 for info.
- **Mon 19**. Demo at Faslane Peace Camp, near Glasgow. 0436 820901.
- **Sat 24**. Picket of Campsfield Detention Centre, Kidlington, Oxfordshire. This months theme is '*Sing Down Campsfield*' - bring songs, instruments etc. 0865 724452
- **Sat 24**. SM Pride March - against the criminalisation of consenting sado-masochistic sex. Meet 11am, Marble Arch, marching to Trafalgar Square. Followed by workshops, fun and a benefit in the evening.
- **Sun 25**. Following the previous day's SM march, there will be a Countdown on Spanner (support group for gay men jailed for consenting SM sex) meeting and SM Gays picnic. Contact Countdown on spanner, c/o Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Rd, London N1 9SE.
- Mon 26 - Sun 2 Oct. Top capitalist bastards from the World Bank meet in Madrid. For possible anti-World Bank actions here ring 0258 473476 or organise it yourself. Eartharc, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ are organising transport to Madrid.
- **Fri 30**. (and last friday of every month). Critical Mass - rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank,Waterloo, SE1.

NO TICKETS
FREE PARKING

in OCTOBER

- **Sat 1**. Justice for Women film screening: on cases of women who kill violent partners. Films: '*Women who kill*', '*The Burning Bed*', '*The provoked wife*'. 6.30 - 9.30pm, London Women's Centre, 4 Wild Court, Holborn WC2. £4/£2.
- **Sat 8**. Day of Action against murdering multinational McDonalds. Leaflet, demonstrate, occupy or burn down your local branch. Leaflets £12 per 1000 from 0602 585666.
- **Sun 9.** Anti Criminal Justice Bill demo, London. Assemble Embankment, WC1, at 12 noon.
- **Fri 14**. Picket of MacDonalds euro/UK HQ, High Rd, N2, 4.30 - 6.30. East Finchley tube.
- **Sat 15**. Public meeting: Solidarity with Sudanese Workers. 1.30 - 4.30, Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd,
- **Sat 15**. National demo against McDonalds, in support of McLibel 2. Meet at Euston Station, London, 12 noon.
- **Fri 21**. Anarchist Communist Federation public meeting, 'Art & Anarchism', 8pm, Marchmont St Community Centre, Marchmont St, WC1..
- **Fri 21 - Sun 30**. Anarchy In the UK. Festival of anarchism in London. Numerous events round London. Contact PO Box 1096, Bristol, BS99 1BW or ring 121 Centre on 071 274 6655.
- **Sat 22**. Anarchist Bookfair. Annual maketplace of anarcho-ideology. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,London WC1.
- **Sun 23**. Levitation of Parliament (errrrrm...) plus post levitation anarchist picnic in Hyde Park. Part of @ inUK.
- **Sun 23**. Public meeting, 'Football Supporters' Power. Class issues/action around football. ThE Approach Tavern, Approach rd, Hackney, E2.
- **Tues 25**. Benefit gig for Football Supporters Association/Supporters Campaign against racism/fascism. Anhrefn, Intensive Care, the Blasphemy Squad, plus films, stalls, raffle. £4/£3 conc/£1 if you wear a footie shirt. The George Robey, Finsbury Park, N4.
- **Tues 25/Wed 26**: Earth Days. Earth First, green anarchy, eco-feminism, roads etc... 25: bands at the George Robey, Finsbury Park, N4.26: Gathering at the SE8 Club, Deptford, London, SE8: discussions, workshops, music,international hunst saboteurs gathering. Help needed with creche, money, bands...Box ZZ, 111 Magdalen Rd. Oxford, OX4. Part of Anarchy in the UK.
- **Wed 26**. @ In UK gig: Oi Polloi,RDF, Citizen Fish, Sad Society, at the George Robey.
- **Thurs 27**. Stop The City, against the Criminal Justice Bill. The City of London, and police cells near you. Part of Anarchy in the UK Nostalgia Trip™
- **Thurs 27**. Public meeting,'*Racism in Football, how are we to fight it?*'. The Approach Tavern, Approach rd, Hackney E2.
- **Thurs 27**. @ in Uk gig: Levellers, Schwarzeneggar,Co-creators, at Brixton Academy.
- **Fri 28**. Critical Mass. See 30 Sept.
- **Sat 29**. London Greenpeace Fayre. Eco-anarchist and other stalls, music, meetings, food. 11-8 Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1. Contact London G'Peace, 5 Caledonian Rd. N1.
- **Sat 29**. Conflict gig at the Astoria, Charing Cross Rd, Central London. Yes these anarcho-punk heroes are back. Part of Anarchy in the UK festival. Advance tickets only - from PO Box 1096, Bristol, BS99 1BW. Get them soon.
- **Sun 30**. Anarchist football tournament and picnic. Get a team together or just stand on the terraces. Contact Our Day Will Come, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX for venue/more details.
- **Sun 30**. @ In UK gig: Roy Bailey, Robb Johnson, Jay Turer at the George Robey.

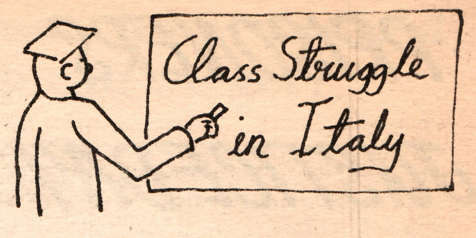
in NOVEMBER

- **Sat 26**. Troops Out Movement Conference, '*The Politics of Peace: Developing the Case for British Withdrawal*. Marking 25 years of Britain's war in Ireland. 10am-5.30pm, ULU, Malet St, London, WC1. £12 waged, £6 unwaged. Contact BM TOM,London, WC1N 3XX for details.
- **Sun 27**. Subversion/Anarchist Communist Fed conference: '*Workplace Struggles*', Manchester. Contact Subversion, Dept 10, 1 Newton St, Manchester, M1.

international

USA WORLD CUP – late news

It seems that the United States has really taken the sport to heart and to prove their dedication and spirit, around 4000 people gathered in downtown LA before the Mexico match on 28th June to pelt cops with bricks and bottles, and with ammo later provided by a ransacked fireworks stall. For the final result, the Huntington Park business district was looted. Stand by for our reports when the game itself catches on.



Class Struggle in Italy

Though the media here report only the activity of the new right wing government and the revelations of corruption that the new head, Berlusconi was claiming to put an end to, the level of struggle against the new regime and its attacks is on the increase. In particular the attacks on schools, similar to those that have happened here, has led to a series of occupations by students, running the places themselves, and a demo of 100,000 in Rome in May in defence of public education. Because of the history of school struggles in Italy, against competition, hierarchy etc. and the fact that many of today's teachers had personal experience of this side of struggle, as well as as workers, there is an awareness that trying to defend the status quo is useless, and that new projects for something better are needed to go forward.

These struggles also have the strength of the Cobas - autonomous work-place based organisations - which are continuing to spread, encouraging new organisations outside the workplace as well, and to co-ordinate locally and nationally.

We have translated a speech from a member of the National Coordination of Casual and Unemployed Schoolworkers to the May demo, which may be of interest, particularly to those working and struggling in this area. Write to us for a copy with an SAE and a donation if possible.

8 Berlusconi-owned department stores in cities across Italy have been firebombed by the "Armed Anti-Berlusconi Unit"

RUGBY NEWS

Members of the Rugby Civil Rights Defence Network have occupied the empty offices of the Rugby NHS Trust as a protest against the forthcoming Criminal Justice Act. Between 5 and 20 people are in occupation at any time and local coverage has been great. The RCRDN intends to "network with the local and nationbal groups and use this squat as a HQ to co-ordinate opposition...and to raise public concern" and is meeting weekly at the local Flying Teapot cafe (every town should have one. Squat and cafe!!)

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these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help hold the map !

Publications

Gaztetxe: Squatting in Pamplona, June 94. Published by *contra*FLOW, available from us, for stamp and donation.

Community re-Charge, 32 Lancaster Rd, London W11 (free/sae)
Local North Kensington newsletter, full of fun and what's going on

CARF, BM BOX 8784, London WC1N 3XX (80p + stamp)
The usual excellent round up of organising against racism and fascism.

The Roadbreaker, Arch 211, Grove Green Rd, London E11 4AJ (25p/sae)
The mag for news of direct action against roadbuilding in London and elsewhere, although too f***fy for our tastes. Bah!

Bad Attitude, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24 (£1/SAE)
Radical women's paper with international perspective and great news coverage.

Tottenham Community Action, c/o 72 West Green road, London, N15. Free newsheet of Tottenham Solidarity Group. Packed with local agitation. Send an SAE and donation.

Squatting Is Still Legal, new leaflet from ASS and SQUASH, gives the lowdown on the current situation. Available from ASS, 2 St Paul's Rd, London, N1.

Counter Information, Pigeonhole C.I, 11 Forth St, Edinburgh EH1 (free/sae).
International news of action and resistance against the shitty capitalist way of life.

• contacts

- ***Advisory Service for Squatters***, 2 St Pauls Rd, N1, 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm.useful practical advice, the law etc.
- ***SQUASH***, same address as above, tel 071 226 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law.
- ***121 Centre***, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open 1-5 Wed-Sat, but ring to check.
- ***56a Info Shop***, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon,Thurs,Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- ***London Class War***, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group, help to produce the populist '*Class War*' paper.
- ***Colin Roach Centre*** 10A Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian/Gay festival organisers, and other local revos and activists. Tel 071-241-4071
- ***Anti Nuclear Network***, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. Direct Action against nukes/nuke power,publish newsletter.
- ***Direct Action Network*** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley F Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability righ organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce briilia newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- ***Haringey Unwaged Centre***, 72 West Green Rd, Tottenham, Londo N15. Tel 081 802 9804. Involved in community/social struggles: do anti-VAT on Fuel, squatting etc. Open weekdays.

LONDON LOCAL SQUATTING GROUPS

- ***(Southwark) Homeless Occupiers Project,*** 612 Old Kent R SE17. Mon-Fri 4-7pm. also workshops on useful issues/problem Mondays at 7pm. 071-277-7639
- **Lewisham Squatters**, 47 Pressingham Rd, SE13. New group.
- ***Acton Squatters***, 53 Western Ave, W3. New group
- ***Haringey Squatters*** (write to): the Unwaged Centre, 72 We Green Rd, N15.